

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GB/US

SUBJECT: GOG ACQUISITION OF SWIFTSHIPS

1. MINISTER PUBLIC WORKS MALEKOU CALLED ME IN NOVEMBER 3 TO ASK THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT SWIFTSHIPS (MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA) WITH REGARD TO DIFFICULTIES GOG ENCOUNTERING.

2. MALEKOU SAID ORIGINAL CONTRACT SIGNED IN NEW YORK DURING BONGO VISIT PROVIDED FOR THREE-ENGINE BOAT WITH FOLLOWING ARMAMENT: TWO 40MM CANONS (BOFORS), TWO 20MM CANNONS (OERLIKONS), AND TWO 50 CALIBRE MACHINEGUNS.

3. MALEKOU SAID SWIFTSHIPS HAS NOW CHANGED SPECIFICATIONS TO TWO-MOTOR BOAT AND PROPOSED DURING MONTH OF AUGUST CHANGING ARMAMENT TO ONE 40MM CANON, ONE 20 MM CANON, AND TWO MACHINEGUNS. IN FURTHER COMMUNICATION IN SEPTEMBER, SWIFTSHIPS NOW PROPOSES REDUCING ARMAMENT FURTHER TO FOUR MACHINEGUNS AND ONE MORTAR.

4. MALEKOU SAID GABONESE TEAM ON WAY TO STATES TO DISCUSS
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REASONS FOR CHANGE FROM THREE TO TWO ENGINES AND THAT GOG,

THEREFORE, NOT REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENT BE BOTHERED WITH THIS ASPECT. GOG FEELS STRONGLY, HOWEVER, ABOUT MAINTAINING ORIGINAL ARMAMENT PROVIDED FOR IN CONTRACT SIGNED IN NEW YORK AND DOES NOT WISH TO ACCEPT REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY SWIFTSHIPS IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER.

5. ORIGINAL CONTRACT ALSO PROVIDED FOR TRAINING GABONESE CREW IN U.S. AND HAVING GABONESE CREW SAIL BOAT FROM U.S. TO GABON. SWIFTSHIPS NOW SUGGESTING THAT BOAT BE LOADED ABOARD LARGE SHIP FOR DELIVERY TO GABON. GABONESE PREFER ORIGINL FORMULA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: GOG WOULD LIKE DEPARTMENT TO CONTACT SWIFTSHIPS AND STRESS GABONESE DESIRE TO STICK TO ORIGINAL ARMAMENT CALLED FOR IN CONTRACT AND TO DELIVERY METHOD ORIGINALLY PROVIDED FOR. EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN ORIGINAL CONTRACT AND DOES NOT, OF COURSE, KNOW REASONS FOR CHANGES PROPOSED BY SWIFTSHIP. WOULD HOPE THAT DEPARTMENT COULD ASCERTAIN THESE REASONS AND IF POSSIBLE PERSUADE SWIFTSHIPS TO CONFORM TO WHAT GABONESE STATE WAS ORIGINALLY AGREED UPON.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
MCKESSON

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